

Town of Shandaken

S.A.F.A.R.I. Meeting Notes

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

February 20, 2024 - 10:00am – 12:00pm

In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

Or attended remotely: <https://meet.goto.com/186340189>

In Attendance:

In Person:

Peter DiSclafani, Town of Shandaken
Supervisor
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway
Superintendent
Leslie Zucker, Program Manager, AWSMP
Adam Doan, Stream Project Manager,
UCSWCD
Max Kelly, Watershed Educator, AWSMP
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE
Adam Trescott, P.E., SMP Ashokan Basin
Manager, NYCDEP
Matt Trueheart, Water Resources Engineer,
SLR

Remote:

Aaron Bennett, Flood Hazard Mitigation
Coordinator, NYCDEP Bureau of Water
Supply
Andrew Emrich, P.E., Sr. Engineering, UCDPW
Mark Carabetta, Principal Environmental
Scientist, SLR

Action Items:

- Heidi to share Rail Trail public meeting recording.
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQvD9RVDp_E)
- If SMIP funds are awarded by the grant committee, Town to work with AWSMP to request a more detailed scope of work from Tetra Tech for the Town-wide Flood Mitigation Plan
- SLR to furnish preliminary design to Town for Pine Hill Stormwater application to CWC

Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc.**
 - Donna was very happy with the NFIP Training
 - Parcel across from diner on Route 28 – they have a no rise cert for barn. Permits are up to date.
 - Aaron asked about Fox Hollow floodway property.
 - Landowner will be using the site for his camper.
 - Peter says the owner might hook up to the well. There is electric on site.
 - Aaron asked about another clearing along Creekside between Big Indian and Rte. 42.
 - A landowner is clearing by the stream, and the stream is already very close to the road in this stretch.
 - There is nothing known by town at this point.
 - Aaron asks Eric if he knows what Ulster County has planned at Hatchery Hollow?
 - Temporary bridge is in now, in accordance with NYS Stream Permit
 - Once UC receives the beams, they'll go ahead and start work.
 - Ulster County is also working on Bonnie View Crystal Spring Bridge. That may go first, depending on when they receive the beams for Hatchery Hollow

- Peter reports there is a parcel at the corner of Rte. 212 and Rte. 28 for sale. The lower portion is in floodplain, and the prospective buyer called the town asking, what can they do with it? There is a single-wide mobile home on site presently. Can a new buyer do septic work there? Can they have a well?
- **Town of Shandaken Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – SMIP Application**
 - The town has applied to prepare a 5-year update to the Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan and Repetitive Loss Area Analysis.
 - If the project is selected for funding, the next step will be to obtain a more detailed scope from Tetra Tech, the town’s preferred consultant.
- **Town of Shandaken Town Hall / Highway Complex Relocation**
 - Heidi provides a brief recap of the site visit with DEP Big Indian property.
 - There was an opportunity to apply for Congressional Discretionary Appropriation Funds and BRIC TA grant – The town submitted an application for approx. \$15 million.
 - The Town also applied for a FEMA BRIC Technical Assistance (TA) grant.
 - Seth at LaBella found it by doing some research. Town assembled letters of support, submitted. FEMA conducted interview.
 - If awarded, FEMA would supply 3 years of direct technical assistance.
 - Would LaBella be the FEMA consultant? Unknown at this time. Peter believes it may be FEMA staff.
- **Other Town News:**
 - Town is having an earth day celebration on the 21st, Pine Hill Community Center in the morning, Phoenicia playhouse in the afternoon. Climate scientists and Tim Koch will be presenting.
 - Pine Hill Rail Trail meeting lots of railroad-supporters attended in protest.

Community Assistance Visit Review

- **Review feedback from state visit**
 - Peter shares that the visit went well, overall. They reviewed the “flagged parcels” and were able to answer Bailey’s questions. There are a few remaining issues and the town will locate previous permits and supply reaming data to DEC.
 - Heidi comments that the CAV was a great opportunity for the town to ask questions and learn more about floodplain management.

Mt. Tremper LOMR

- **Update and discussion with SLR**
 - SLR started working on LOMR in Mt. Tremper using the 2d model that DOT put together – its all but ready to submit, EXCEPT, they’ve discovered an error in the effective FEMA model. The FEMA Effective Model is actually underestimating flooding during a 1% annual chance storm. The new bridge does reduce flooding in reality, but it’s still an increase compared to what the effective map says.
 - SLR spoke with FEMA consultants; they’ve offered up a few options.
 - FEMA is at least 6-8 years out from what might have been a scheduled update; they might consider remodeling it now.
 - OR we can proceed with LOMR just for Mt. Tremper... but this will be a very sensitive matter for residents, and it will be important to consider the alternatives and their impacts carefully.
 - Leslie asks if it’s possible to tie in the 2d model with the 1d effective model.
 - Matt says yes. Its easy to do at the downstream end, and it may be a bit trickier at the upstream end, but still doable.
 - Heidi asks if FEMA re-maps this area, would they survey cross sections, or just model based on some recent LiDAR?

- Matt isn't quite sure. They'd have to get some bathymetry... but not sure what their methods would be.
- Leslie raises this as a fairness question. Is it *FAIR* to go "accurate" in this one section of stream, considering how it will impact the landowners financially? In the meantime, is it fair for them to "unknowingly" continue to actually be at a higher risk than the maps indicate?
 - Eric thinks maybe it's better to use accurate data now. This will avoid any near-term development from being built too low and thus, still at risk.
 - Plus, if the partners wait some 8-10 years for new FEMA maps, it'll only be kicking the can, and will still affect people's flood insurance. Especially for those who THOUGHT they were doing the right thing when making alterations or new construction. It would benefit that group to address what we now know, now.
 - The group discusses the unusual and difficult public relations issue this process will present.
- Next steps: FEMA is reviewing what they might offer as a solution. They have the SLR updated model in hand.
 - Matt sense is that they are considering fast-tracking a remodel of this 11-mile stretch.
 - Leslie comments: there are many flood mitigation projects in the queue which will all be impacted by how this is handled.
- Eric asks: When SLR is modelling in Phoenicia, what data are they using?
 - SLR is using the correct (actual) flows.
 - Right now, they're basing the work off the flows that are correctly calibrated.
- Town is content to wait to see how this is going to proceed.

Design & Implementation Project Updates from SLR

- **Design & Feasibility Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge Project - UC DPW (partly funded by AWSMP) with Phoenicia Main Street Bridge & Floodplain Enhancement Study (funded by AWSMP).**
 - SLR – Mark reports that there is a contract revision in Leslie's hands; Leslie says she's waiting on the town to sign, then it'll get underway. Leslie will re-send to Peter.
 - Matt reports they're working on some design calculations with Andrew and will start pulling in modelling related to main street; this will really inform the direction of Bridge Street bridge.
- **Bonnie View Project Sites 1& 2 Feasibility Study & Concept Design (funded by AWSMP)**
 - SLR will be out there in mid-April, to get that project started.
- **Pine Hill Stormwater Project**
 - Eric mentions that the town is eager to get this project underway. They've been promising a stormwater project in Pine Hill for 15 years now.
 - Mark states that Ethan helping out on this and has been in touch with Rachael at CWC to make sure what they're proposing is inline with what may be funded.
 - SLR plans to furnish a preliminary design for application submission to CWC.
 - This project is just for a portion of Main Street. From the Community Center parking lot, down to the firehouse (or possibly further south).

Stream Restoration Project Updates

- **McKenley Hollow (funded by AWSMP)**
 - Adam has met landowners from SBL: 12.18-1-4 they are supportive of project.
 - They asked if Adam could share the report with them.
 - SLR and Town say: its pretty dense, but if they want to see it, go ahead.
 - SLR discussed with the town that the road reconstruction work could be done by the town, with a contractor doing the stream work.
 - Eric agrees. He says Highway Dept can work on the subbase and compact item four. Then the contractors for stream work can access the site without ruining a new pavement. Once stream project is done, town can pave road.
 - Alternatives 1 and 2 are close to the same design – working on whether there might be a floodplain bench and how much floodplain?
 - Heidi asks if there is still a desire to have a public meeting just for the folks in McKenley Hollow?
 - Meeting would be to share information found in the study that really highlights the significant flood risk that will continue to exist in this hollow.
 - Landowners and Business owners (East Wind) should have an emergency evacuation plan.
 - It would also be valuable information for the Planning Board and other public officials when considering future development in this area.
 - AWSMP could provide some slides to the town, if they'd like, to have talking points for the public, if/as needed.
 - Eric states that when the project is further along, there will be opportunities to discuss possible road closures due to the restoration project; that would be a good time to discuss risk in this area with all.

Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
 - Reviewing the current SMIP applications. After this grant, there will be very few SMIP funds left to award in 2024 for planning and outreach projects. That said, if the town wants to start a Chichester LFA, they could apply in the fall, that would be preferable timing. There may also be funds for more design and engineering funds.
 - Bonnie view avenue, with eye on 2026 for construction
 - Academy Street, also looking towards 2026 construction.
- **CWC**
 - John reports they've received several feasibility studies for projects in Phoenicia. Summary results for Phoenicia business district properties:
 - Study recommended elevating Brio's building, as well as certain floodproofing measures.
 - There is a little house in the back, the study recommended full elevation and wet floodproofing.
 - The old Riccardella's building (John believes) was recommended for wet floodproofing; but he couldn't quite recall.
 - Plank Rd home – approved for funding. LaBella will be starting that feasibility study soon
 - Rte. 214, Phoenicia home – doing design now, for flood protection measures (mostly wet floodproofing and moving utilities).
 - Jay Street - feasibility study has not been completed yet.
 - Still working on tank anchoring. Just a matter of getting folks to apply and getting the gas companies to participating in the disconnection / temp re-connection and final connection. The gas companies have been difficult to work with because they don't really get anything out of going out and re-connecting these lines.
 - Heidi asks if CWC has any pamphlets on tank anchoring to spread the word.
 - CWC does not.

- **NYCDEP**
 - Aaron: Four Demolitions, hopefully this year:
 - Two in Mt. Tremper: pre-demo surveys are in. Everything is scheduled in the fall. Must work around eagle's nest (October to December).
 - Two in Oliverea: testing and pre-demo survey is about a month or two away from being completed.
 - Station Rd.: Heidi updated that this is on hold until we determine the path forward for Bridge St. Bridge, because the solution was to convey the whole of station Rd. to the town along with this property; but it may be beneficial to keep the road in County's ownership until the bridge Street bridge project is further along.
 - Heidi brings up Church Rd property. Owner is interested in relocation as part of FBO. She does not need a feasibility study.
 - Aaron also reports there was a "Call for comments" from DEC on the Climate Smart Communities grant program. (Now some of this funding will be coming from the bond act). There is an opportunity to weigh in on eligibility guidelines. Aaron reflects on Olive FD's ineligibility. DEP in encouraging flexibility.
 - Aaron drafted comments from DEP to encourage flexibility for funding for critical facilities.
 - Does the county want to comment as well – closes Friday.
- **Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)**
 - UC Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan: State comments have come in; many are related to new climate change planning standards and requirements. Town should be on the lookout for an email from Tetra Tech regarding any changes related to town that need to be addressed.
 - UC DPW: Andrew reports that a Creekside Road wall that has collapsed; it will be addressed this summer.
 - Any public meetings re: Bridge Street Bridge this summer?
 - On hold until Stony Clove analysis and waiting on SLR for different configuration on the bridge. Not enough new information to hold a public meeting at this time.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 21, 2024 @ 10:00 am
Send the notes Joyce.